

## Message Text

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 23068

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OVIP TH US (CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN, FOREIGN MINISTER)

SUBJECT: CHATCHAI ON WHAT HE WILL DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON

1. THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS RELATING TO HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND THE SUBJECTS HE EXPECTS TO RAISE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

REPORTER: WHAT DATE HAVE YOU FIXED TO GO TO AMERICA?

CHATCHAI: NO DATE HAS BEEN FIXED YET, BUT I HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH KISSINGER, ASKING HIM WHETHER THE LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER WOULD BE CONVENIENT, AND HE HAS REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

REPORTER: ON WHAT SUBJECTS WILL YOU HOLD NEGOTIATIONS?

CHATCHAI: TO REACH UNDERSTANDING ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES.

REPORTER: I HAVE HEARD THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN HAS STATED THAT U.S. MILITARY FORCE OUGHT TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE?

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CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE THAT IS HIS PERSONAL VIEW.

REPORTER: WILL YOU GO AND HOLD TALKS, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE?

CHATCHAI: OF COURSE NOT. I WILL GO AND REMIND HIM THAT THE DEADLINE FIXED FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES IS DRAWING NEAR.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU WILL REASSERT THAT MARCH 20, 1976, IS THE DEADLINE FIXED?

CHATCHAI: MARCH 20, 1976, IS THE DEADLINE FIXED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT OF POLICY TO PARLIAMENT. THERE ARE MANY SUBJECTS WHICH I WILL DISCUSS, SUCH AS EQUIPMENT, INSTALLATIONS, ETC.

REPORTER: WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO TO AMERICA YOURSELF? HAS KISSINGER REQUESTED YOU TO GO?

CHATCHAI: NO. KISSINGER TOLD ME AS LONG AS TWO YEARS AGO THAT WHETHER AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES CONTINUE REMAINING HERE, OR WHETHER THEY ARE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN, DEPENDS ON THAILAND. DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT? WE HAVE DECIDED ALREADY THAT THEY MUST BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN, BECAUSE SHOULD THEY REMAIN HERE IT WOULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE FEELINGS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WE DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HURT THEIR FEELINGS. THE WAR IS ENDED NOW, AND THERE IS NO NECESSITY FOR PLANES TO BE SENT ON BOMBING MISSIONS OR TO BE USED FOR ANY STRATEGICAL PURPOSES. I HAVE TOLD YOU ALREADY THAT WE MUST COMPLETELY CHANGE THE IMAGE OF THAILAND.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF AID GIVEN US TO MAKE SELF-RELIANT?

CHATCHAI: WE ARE BECOMING SELF-RELIANT ALREADY UNDER PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON FOR YEARS, BUT ALL WE WANT IS FOR THAT FORM OF AID TO BE SPEEDED UP.

REPORTER: DO YOU MEAN PROJECTS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE US AID ALSO?

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CHATCHAI: THEY ARE PROJECTS WHICH ARE ALREADY IN THE AID AGREEMENT, AND WHICH WE WILL SPEED UP.

REPORTER: IS THE PROJECT TO BE SPEEDED UP THAT FOR PRODUCTION OF LIGHT WEAPONS?

CHATCHAI: NO. THERE ARE MANY MILITARY PROJECTS, BUT IT ISN'T

PROPER TO GIVE YOU ANY INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS WHICH ARE MILITARY SECRETS.

REPORTER: BUT YOU SAID JUST NOW THAT THERE ARE MANY SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED. DOES THAT INCLUDE U TAPAO OR...

CHATCHAI: FIRST OF ALL, UNDERSTANDING MUST BE REACHED REGARDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND AMERICA. THE FACT THAT U.S. MILITARY FORCES WILL BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN FROM OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT MEAN THAT WZ WILL NO LONGER BE FRIENDS. NOT AT ALL. WE WILL HOLD TALKS ON PR MOTION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS, THEN ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES.

REPORTER: WHAT WILL BE THE THIRD SUBJECT?

CHATCHAI: AFTER DISCUSSING THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES, TALKS WILL BE HELD ON TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS THAT OUGHT TO BE AMENDED, SUCH AS WHAT AMENDMENTS OUGHT TO BE MADE TO THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID AGREEMENTS. WE HAVE MADE PREPARATIONS IN FULL ALREADY FOR TALKS ON THAT SUBJECT. THEN WE WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THAT'S ALL. TALKS ON THOSE FOUR SUBJECTS WILL MOST PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL DAYS; ONLY ONE DAY WOULD NOT END THEM.  
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